

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-69 (canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) A process for the isolation of montelukast acid in solid form which comprises:

(a) reacting montelukast dicyclohexylamine salt (X) with aqueous acetic acid in ~~an at least one organic solvent that is toluene or ethyl acetate;~~
(b) ~~separating the organic layer;~~
(c) ~~stirring the organic layer of step(b) at 10 °C to 40 °C reaction mixture of step(a);~~
(d) ~~filtering the resulting solid for recovering wet cake; and~~
(e) ~~(d) drying the wet cake under vacuum to obtain substantially pure montelukast acid as light yellow in solid form having a purity of greater than or equal to 99%.~~

71. (canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 71 ~~70~~, wherein the ~~aromatic hydrocarbon organic solvent used in step(a)~~ is toluene-~~or~~ xylene.

73. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 71 ~~70~~, wherein the ~~aliphatic ester organic solvent used in step(a)~~ is ethyl acetate-~~or~~ propyl acetate.

74. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 70, wherein the organic solvent used in step(a) is a mixture of toluene ~~or~~ xylene and ethyl acetate-~~or~~ propyl acetate.

75. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 70, wherein montelukast acid is isolated in solid form as light yellow solid having a melting range of 148-150 °C.

76. (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of montelukast sodium in

amorphous form comprising:

- (a) dissolving solid montelukast acid in methanol in presence of ~~a source of sodium ion sodium hydroxide~~;
- (b) removing methanol under vacuum to obtain a solid residue;
- (c) ~~triturating titrating~~ the solid residue with an aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent selected from the group consisting of: n-pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane and n-octane or a mixture thereof;
- (d) filtering the resulting solid for recovering a wet cake; and
- (e) drying the wet cake under pressure to obtain montelukast sodium in amorphous form.

77. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 76, wherein aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent used in step (c) is ~~selected from the group consisting of: n-pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane and n-octane or a mixture thereof~~.

Claims 78-80. (canceled)

81. (Withdrawn) Solid montelukast acid that is a light yellow solid having a melting point ranging from 148-150 °C, wherein the solid montelukast acid is characterized by ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃), δ (ppm) = 0.40-0.56 (bd, 4H, cyclopropyl H); 1.58 (s, 3H, CH₃); 1.59 (s, 3H, CH₃); 2.14-2.63 (m, 6H, S--CH₂-C₃H₄, and -CH₂-CO₂H, S-CH-CH₂-CH₂); 2.84-2.94 (m, 1H, S-CH-CH₂-CH₂); 3.11-3.21 (m, 1H, S-CH-CH₂-CH₂); 3.96-4.01 (t, 1H, S-CH-CH₂-CH₂); 7.07-8.05 (m, 15H, aromatic H).

82. (New) The process of claim 76, wherein aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent used in step (c) is n-hexane.

83. (New) The process of claim 76, wherein aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent used in step (c) is n-heptane.

84. (New) The process of claim 76, wherein aliphatic hydrocarbon organic solvent used in step (c) is n-octane.